

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to urge you to block the proposed SBC/AT&T and Verizon/MCI mergers (WC Dockets 05-65 and 05-75, respectively). These mergers would stifle competition and would decrease options while increasing price. They could even worsen the "digital divide" at a time when over 60 percent of Americans don't have high-speed Internet service in the home.

Large telephone companies are blocking access to their networks and stopping competition for local, long-distance, the Internet, cellphone services, and new technologies offering calls using the Internet. If these mergers go through, only two companies will control 90 percent of the consumer market. These mergers put the interests of large corporations over the interests of individual consumers. I believe the FCC's duty is to block these mergers. In a world of increasing competition, most consumers could be enjoying unlimited local and long-distance telephone calls, as well as high-speed Internet access at affordable pricing. The FCC must block these mergers and find new ways to bring down the costs of these services, particularly high-speed Internet which has become essential to modern life and is the gateway to new technologies. America is falling behind the rest of the world in broadband deployment. We are now 16th-- far behind countries like Japan and Korea, w!

hich have opened up the building blocks of broadband phone and cable lines to competitors. This merger will only worsen problems and therefore must be blocked. If not, there will be stifled competition, raised prices, and fewer choices, making the problems worse instead of better.

Sincerely,

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